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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/731,003

12/10/2003

Yukio Hara

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08/19/2005

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EXAMINER

CHEN, SOPHIA S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2852

DATE MAILED: 08/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/731,003

Applicant(s)

HARA, YUKIO

Examiner

Sophia S. Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-8 and 10 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 9 and 11-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 December 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/10/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species I, Figures 2 and 5, and claims 1-3, 9, and 11-17, in the reply filed on 7/20/05 is acknowledged.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "1" has been used to designate "an image holding member" (page 33, lines 3-4, etc. and Figure 2), "the cleaning unit" (page 38, line 22), and "an image forming apparatus" (page 38, line 22). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 37 (Figure 5). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the

description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The drawings are objected to because reference character "42b" of Figure 6 should be labeled as "42k" in order to be consistent with page 41, line 21 of the specification. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the

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examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

5. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "unit for cleaning an image holding member can be attached to and detached from the image holding member" (claim 12) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

6. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the inclusion of legal phraseology, such as "comprising" (page 75, line 2). Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
7. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informality: page 32, line 12, "10" should be "1". Appropriate correction is required.
8. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

10. Claims 1-3, 9, and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nukada et al. (US Pat. Pub. No. US 2004/0062568 A1).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application.

Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome

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either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Nukada et al. discloses an electrically conductive member 702a or 702b comprising a core 705a or 705b and a resin layer provided on an outer peripheral surface of the core 705a or 705b (paragraph [0139]), wherein the resin layer is made of a resin composition in which an electrically conductive agent is dispersed, and the abrasion amount of the resin composition, measured by Japanese Industrial Standard K6902, is 20 mg or less (paragraphs [0142] and [0149]); the resin composition has an M scale Rockwell hardness, measured by Japanese Industrial Standard K7202, of at least 100 (paragraph [0143]); and the electrically conductive member is an electrically conductive roller 702a or 702b having an electrical resistivity of 1×10^5 to 1×10^{10} ohm when an voltage of 500V is applied to the electrically conductive roller 702a or 702b (paragraph [0150]).

Nukada et al. also discloses a unit 7 for cleaning an image holding member 1, comprising a brush member 701a or 701b brought into contact with an image holding member surface (paragraph [0136] and Figure 7); an electrically conductive roller 702a or 702b brought into contact with the brush member 701a or 701b (paragraph [0139] and Figure 7); a blade 703a or 703b brought into contact with the electrically conductive roller 702a or 702b (paragraph [0144] and Figure 7); a process cartridge 41a including the unit 46 (or 7) (Figure 8); the unit 7 for cleaning the image holding member 1 can be attached to and detached from the image holding member 1 (paragraph [0136]); and

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cleaning biases are applied to the brush member 701a or 701b and the electrically conductive roller 702a or 702b so that a potential difference is generated between a cleaning bias applied to the brush member 701a or 701b and a cleaning bias applied to the electrically conductive roller 702a or 702b (paragraph [0147]).

Nukada et al. further discloses the image forming apparatus comprising a plurality of units 701a and 701b for cleaning an image holding member 1 disposed along a moving direction of the image holding member 1, wherein a voltage is applied to each of the units 701a and 701b for cleaning an image holding member 1 so that polarities of voltages applied to the respective units 701a and 701b for cleaning an image holding member 1 alternate between positive and negative along the moving direction of the image holding member 1 (paragraph [0152]); and wherein the polarity of a voltage applied to a unit 701b for cleaning the image holding member 1 disposed farthest upstream in a moving direction of the image holding member 1 is different from the polarity of a toner on a surface of a developer holding member (paragraph [0152]).

Other Prior Art

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Pozniakas et al. (US Pat. No. 5,031,000) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a cleaning unit having a first cleaning brush, a first detoning roller, a second cleaning brush, and a second detoning roller.

Jugle et al. (US Pat. No. 5,479,249) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a cleaning unit having a cleaning brush and a detoning roller.

Shakuto et al. (US Pat. Pub. No. US 2003/0039494 A1) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a cleaning unit having a first cleaning brush, a first detoning roller, a second cleaning brush, and a second detoning roller.

Takami et al. (US Pat. Pub. No. US 2003/0039495 A1) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a cleaning unit having a cleaning brush and a detoning roller.

Noda et al. (JP 03-242678 A) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a cleaning unit having a cleaning brush, a detoning roller, and a cleaning blade.

Tanaka (JP 04-124690 A) discloses an image forming apparatus comprising a cleaning unit having a cleaning brush, a detoning roller, and a cleaning blade.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sophia S. Chen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2133. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Arthur Grimley can be reached on (571) 272-2136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sophia S. Chen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

Ssc
August 17, 2005